

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 7, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

The Disclosure stands objected to for an inconsistency.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kameyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,480).

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Snyder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,046,966).

The Disclosure

Applicants point out that the rubber seal **15** is part of the connector body **14**. Reference numeral **15** points to the rubber seal, which includes the threaded portion of the connector body **14** and the passages **20**.

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of **claim 7**. **Claim 7** has been canceled.

Claim 8, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter has been rewritten into independent form.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of **claim 15**. **Claim 15** has been canceled.

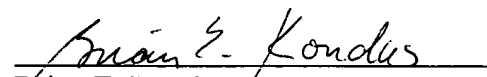
Claim 16, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter has been rewritten into independent form.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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